



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **PEORIA MAN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR CHARGES RELATED TO STOLEN MAIL**

PHOENIX – Willis Newell Drake, 36, of Peoria, Ariz., was sentenced here yesterday to 15 months in prison for the destruction of a letter box and for possessing stolen mail after he pleaded guilty to the charges on January 27, 2006. The two sentences, imposed by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia, will be served concurrently and will be followed by 36 months of supervised release.

Based on information from an identity theft victim, U.S. Postal Inspectors conducted a search on December 1, 2005 of an apartment occupied by Drake and Misty Darlene Finney, a yet to be sentenced co-defendant. While conducting the search of the apartment, Postal Inspectors discovered a shopping bag containing numerous pieces of mail from a nearby apartment complex.

Postal Inspectors were then dispatched to the apartment complex where they determined that the multi-unit letter box was broken into. They also determined that the addressees identified on the mail seized from Drake and Finney's apartment did not authorize the two defendants to possess their mail. Postal Inspectors were able to establish that Drake and Finney broke into the apartment complex letter box and stole the mail.

Drake and Finney have been in custody at a federal detention facility since their arrest on December 1, 2005. The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution was handled by Robert Long, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-1340-PHX-MHM  
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